and rice, over and above the normal monthly allocation, if demanded by the States/UTs will be considered subject to availability and at economic cost.

W.e.f. 1.3.2000, Government has decided to allot levy sugar to States/ UTs on the basis of projected population as on 1.3.1999. Accordingly, the allotment of levy sugar has been enhanced. In case of North East and hilly States entitlement of levy sugar has also been increased from 425 gms. to 700 gms. per head per month. The income tax assesses and their family members will be excluded from PDS in respect of levy sugar allotment from July, 2000 onwards.

From February, 2000 onwards monthly allocation of imported RBD Palmolein is being made as per the demand intimated by States/UTs. Basis of allotmen jto the beneficiaries through the PDS outlets is fhxed by the States/ UTs themselves.

Allocation of kerosene is made on historical basis i.e., past years supplies plus additional allocation out of increase given at national level. Possible increase is given out of the additional availability at the country level, in accordance with a formula under which higher allocation out of additional quantity, is given to States with lower per capita availability so as to reduce inter-stated disparity over a period of time. The distribution of kerosene and its monitoring within the State is the responsibility of concerned State Goverment. Government of India has insisted upon the State Governments identifying ration card holders having LPG connections for discontinuance supply of kerosene to them under PDS.

Difference between support price of wheat and rice and economic cost of FCI

†3682. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge difference between the support price of wheat and rice in the country and the economic cost of Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the support price of wheat and rice in 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(c) the economic cost of wheat and rice of Food Corporation of India in the above years; and

(d) the economic cost assessed at present of the said foodgrains?

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (d) : Yes, Sir. A Statement showing Minimum Support Price (MSP) *vis-a-vis* Economic Cost of Wheat and Rice since 1997-98 is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Statement showing minimum support price (MSP) vis-a-vis Economic cost of Wheat and Rice since 1997-98

Rs./QTL.

Year	MSP of			Economic Cost	
	Paddy		Wheat	Wheat	Rice (Weighted)
	Common	Grade A			
1997-98	415	445	475*	786	939
1998-99	440	470	510**	798	975
1999-2000(RE)	490	520	550	820	1076
2000-2001(BE)	—	—	580	900	1180

Note: 1. MSP of paddy is for marketing years (Oct.-Sept. of a year).

Milling charges for rice-millers

3683. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central government fix milling charges payable to rice millers for milling of paddy;

(b) whether Punjab Government has requested the Central Government for enhancement of milling charges, keeping in view the over-all increase in expenditure incurred for milling of paddy;

*Includes bonus of Rs. 60/-per qtl. upto June '97.
**Includes bonus of Rs. 55/-per qtl. upto June '98.